

---

## General Information, 1996

### Tax rates:\*

Program	Employer and employee, each	Self-employed
Total .....	7.65%	15.30%
OASI .....	5.26%	10.52%
DI .....	.94%	1.88%
HI .....	1.45%	2.90%

\* Social Security tax for employers and self-employed can be partially offset under income tax rules.

### Average wage level:\*

1994 .....	\$23,754
1995 (est.) .....	24,611
1996 (est.) .....	25,778

\* Office of the Actuary, SSA.

### Maximum earnings subject to Social Security taxes:

OASDI .....	\$62,700
HI .....	No limit

### Taxes payable:

Earners	OASI	DI	HI
Average earner .....	\$1,356	\$242	No limit
Maximum earner .....	3,298	589	No limit
Self-employed maximum earner .....	6,596	1,179	No limit

### Quarters of coverage (work credit):

\$640 in earnings equals one quarter of coverage

\$2,560 is maximum earnings needed for four quarters of coverage per year

### Retirement earnings test:

Age	Annually	Monthly
Age 65–69 (\$1 for \$3 withholding rate) .....	\$12,500	\$1,042
Under age 65 (\$1 for \$2 withholding rate) .....	8,280	690

---

## General Information, 1996

### Age for full retirement benefit:

Full benefit at age—	Applicable to workers who attain age 62 in year—
65	1994–99
65 and 2 months	2000
65 and 4 months	2001
65 and 6 months	2002
65 and 8 months	2003
65 and 10 months	2004
66	2005–2016
66 and 2 months	2017
66 and 4 months	2018
66 and 6 months	2019
66 and 8 months	2020
66 and 10 months	2021
67	2022 & later

Benefit formula bend points (for workers who in 1996 attain age 62, become disabled, or die before age 62):

#### Primary insurance amount equals:

90% of the first \$437 of AIME, plus  
32% of AIME over \$437 through \$2,635, plus  
15% of AIME over \$2,635

#### Maximum family benefit equals:

150% of the first \$559 of PIA, plus  
272% of PIA over \$559 through \$806, plus  
134% of PIA over \$806 through \$1,052, plus  
175% of PIA over \$1,052

Substantial gainful activity (used for determining eligibility for and continuation of disability benefits):

Earnings of \$500 per month for nonblind disabled persons  
Earnings of \$960 per month for blind persons

OASDI administrative costs as a percent of contributions,  
fiscal year 1995:\* 0.8%

\*1996 OASDI Trustees' Report.

## General Information, 1996

### Trust fund operations:

[In billions]

Fiscal year	Income	Outgo	Fund at end of year
1995 (actual)			
OASI .....	\$326.1	\$294.5	\$447.9
DI .....	70.2	41.4	35.2
1996 (est.)*			
OASI .....	358.9	308.3	498.5
DI .....	59.5	45.1	49.6

\*Appendix to the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1997.

### Benefit payments as a percent of gross domestic product:

Fiscal year	Total	OASI	DI
1994 .....	4.58%	4.04%	0.54%
1995 .....	4.58%	4.02%	.56%

### Filed in fiscal year 1995:\*

OASI claims .....	3.1 million
DI claims .....	1.8 million
SSI applications .....	2.0 million

\*OASI claims exclude those filed by disabled widow(er)s and disabled adult children of retired or deceased workers, which are included in the DI claims.

### SSI Federal payment standard: 1996

\$470 individual  
\$705 couple

### Poverty thresholds:\*

Family unit	1993 (actual)	1994 (actual)	1995 (preliminary)
Aged individual .....	\$6,930	\$7,108	\$7,309
Family of two, aged head .....	8,487	8,967	9,221
Family of four .....	14,335	15,141	15,570

\*Bureau of the Census.